

Concluding Comments

Phase III excavations within 7NC-E-152 have produced results that significantly improve our understanding of both site chronology and the internal disposition and integrity of artifact deposits comprising Clusters 1, 3, 4, and 5. In terms of site chronology, the recovery of possible Hell Island or Minguannan pottery has resulted in the determination that this site is comprised of multiple components, with portions of the extreme southern end of the site (Clusters 1 and 5) containing occupations dating to either the Woodland I or Woodland II culture periods. Cluster 3 has been provisionally dated to the Early-Middle Archaic period based on the recovery of a single bifurcate projectile point. Cluster 4 continues to defy easy chronological assignment, but contains a range of points and other artifacts that support the placement of this locus within the Early Archaic through Early Woodland prehistoric time frame.

As related to site/cluster composition and artifact integrity, data derived from all three clusters may indicate the continued preservation of meaningful internal artifact patterning. Evidence supporting this assertion appears to be most clearly expressed in Cluster 4, where possible evidence of multiple activity areas/knapping features has been detected. At this time it is not known whether the heightened clarity of data in this portion of the site may relate to geomorphological interpretations indicating that this area may have been less intensively plowed in the past, or to some other factor. Though internal patterning may be less pronounced in Clusters 1 and 3, preliminary findings do hint that at least some degree of the original site structure may have escaped total obliteration by long-term historic agricultural practices.

REFERENCES CITED

Gramly, Richard Michael

2000 *Guide to the Palaeo-American Artifacts of North America*. Persimmon Press, Buffalo, NY.